REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request consideration of the subject application as amended

herein. This Amendment is submitted in response to the Office Action mailed October 4, 2006.

Claims 1, 2, 13, 14, 19, 20, 23, 24, 27 and 28 stand rejected. In this Amendment, claims 1, 19,

23 and 27 have been amended. No new matter has been added.

35 U.S.C. §101

The Examiner has rejected claims 27-30 under 35 U.S.C. §101 because the claimed

invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter. Claims 27-30 have been amended to be

directed to an article of manufacture, i.e., a statutory subject matter. Applicants respectfully

request the withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 101.

35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1, 2, 13, 14, 19, 20, 23, 24, 27 and 28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as

being anticipated by Armstrong, et al., (U.S. Patent No. 7,111,200, hereinafter "Armstrong").

Notwithstanding the following remarks, applicants reserve the right to swear behind the

Armstrong reference.

Armstrong discloses a mechanism for debugging a logical partition, in which a logical

partition debugger can debug one logical partition in a computer system without requiring the

shutdown of other logical partitions. A virtual service processor provides control functions for

the logical partitions, and the logical partition debugger provides debug functions.

The Examiner alleges that a logical partition and a virtual service processor in Armstrong

constitute a virtual machine (VM) and a virtual machine monitor (VMM) respectively that are

claimed in the present invention. Even assuming that the Examiner's allegations are correct, Armstrong still does not teach or suggest all the limitations recited in the presently claimed invention. In particular, in Armstrong, when an active breakpoint is found in a breakpoint list of the current partition, a user is notified of the breakpoint via a user interface. The user then requests a debug function such as a single-stepping. Hence, the user in Armstrong is required to provide some input to initiate the single-stepping. In the presently claimed invention, in contrast, no user interaction is required between receiving a request to transition control to a VM and returning control to the VMM. Thus, Armstrong does not teach or suggest the limitations of the present invention that are included in the following language of claim 1:

> ... receiving a request to transition control to a virtual machine (VM) from a virtual machine monitor (VMM);
>> determining that a single-stepping indicator is set to a single stepping value;
>> transitioning control to the VM; and
>> if an execution of a first instruction in the VM completes successfully, transitioning control to the VMM following the successful completion of the execution of the first instruction, without requiring any user interaction between receiving the request to transition control to the VM and transitioning control back to the VMM.

Similar language is included in independent claims 19, 23 and 27. Thus, claims 1, 19, 23 and 27, and their corresponding dependent claims, are not anticipated by Armstrong. Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) and submits that the pending claims are in condition for allowance.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 3-12, 15-18, 21, 22, 25 and 26 are allowable.

DEPOSIT ACCOUNT AUTHORIZATION

Authorization is hereby given to charge our Deposit Account No. 02-2666 for any charges that may be due. Furthermore, if an extension is required, then Applicant hereby requests such extension.

If the Examiner determines the prompt allowance of these claims could be facilitated by a telephone conference, the Examiner is invited to contact Marina Portnova at (408) 720-8300.

Respectfully submitted,

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